

VOICES 4 YOUTH

Volume 4 Issue 2

Spring 2011

FLOYD COUNTY
YOUTH
SERVICES
BUREAU



It's Time to Garden

Spring is here and its time to get into full swing with our garden. Last year our fantastic volunteer, Floyd Quinn, helped the kids grow and harvest over a dozen different crops. This year Floyd has increased the size of the garden by another 100 square feet.

By getting an earlier start on the garden we will have some cold crops like peas and greens ready to harvest at about the same time as school lets out for the year.

The garden provided a great number of lessons for the kids over last summer, many that had nothing to do with

agriculture. Floyd has been a huge friend to many of our kids and teaches life lessons while weeding.

We had fresh produce donated by Master Gardeners of Southern Indiana and Russell Veg-gies throughout last summer. These sources and the garden provided enough fresh melons and vegetables to feed all of our kids. This was a wonderful change from the canned foods that are standard fare. We were even able to share some of our bounty with the other organizations that feed the hungry in our community.

If you would like to help Floyd and the kids with the garden



Contact Rita Sasse at
(812) 948-5481 or
rsasse@floydcounty.in.gov

April is Prevent Child Abuse Month

25% of girls are sexually abused by the age of 18 and 1 out of every 6 boys share this same sad fate. Various studies tell us when jobs and social assistance programs shrink that child abuse and neglect numbers

rise. With these facts, it is timely that April is National Child Abuse Awareness month.

Mayor England joined the Prevent Child Abuse Council for Clark and Floyd Counties

to kick-off our local campaign on April 8 in front of the City-county Building. We planted a "Garden of Hope" with blue pinwheels to remind everyone that we all have a part to play.

Inside this issue:

Phi Kappa Kappa helps out

pg 2

Girls and Boys

pg 3

Valentines for Veterans

pg 2

Summer plans

pg 4

Phi Sigma Sigma to the Rescue

February 19 was a great example of community involvement by young people willing to give up a Saturday.

Over a dozen girls from Phi Sigma Sigma at IUS came to spend the afternoon at the shelter, straightening out our clothing closet and storage rooms.

These areas are unheated throughout the winter and staff spends as little time as possible in them. The result is disorganized spaces that don't serve us well.

Sorting, sizing and boxing usable items and bagging those things that we won't keep had the girls busy. But it wasn't all work and no play.



Brianna Jordan takes a break

to play with Boots, our shelter cat. The girls also learned a lot about our programs.

Items that we couldn't use were donated to Goodwill.



Pictures by MacKenzie Harry

Veterans on Valentines Day

For the past 3 years the kids at the shelter have made valentine cards for the veterans at the VA Hospital in Louisville.

This year we were a bit more creative. Board member Lana Aebersold brought by a number of white wicker baskets and that started an art project. The girls (and a couple of the boys) started making tissue flowers. We added Easter basket grass and voila - we had bouquets!

The end result was a dozen varied and colorful room brighteners going to folks who are often neglected.

But that wasn't the end of the effect the project had on the residents. First they learned about who a veteran is and who is not a veteran and what military service is.

The misconceptions are amazing. One young man thought that to be a veteran you had to have killed someone. Of course discussing veterans allowed us to sneak in a history lesson.

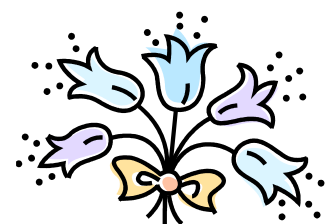
The biggest lesson learned by the kids each year is that you don't need to be rich or even an adult to give to someone else. Our kids are the recipients of many gifts from our great community.

Some are large gifts from organized efforts. Some are small but very meaningful, like Faith Community Church allowing us to use their gym for basketball on Friday nights or the pair of shoes that a student at Christian Academy bought for one of our boys who needed a pair.

The local dentist offices that make sure we have plenty of brushes, paste and floss and the group of guys from Sojourn Church that visit to play basketball or Scrabble all make life better here.

All of these instances and hundreds more teach our children that everyone has something to give back. Though they may have been dealt a rough hand in life, even our residents can be generous. And it feels good.

So here is our bouquet to you who have shared with us.



Girls

There are scary statistics about what is going on in the lives of teenage girls these days. Seven out of ten girls (ages 11 to 18) in the USA have low self esteem. The rate is higher here in our shelter because of the population we serve.

Girls with low self esteem are:

78% more likely to do poorly in school

75% more likely to engage in: cutting, bullying, smoking, drinking or have various eating disorders

88% more likely to engage in early sexual activity or be bullied by boyfriends

Statistics cited in the article are available at dosomething.org

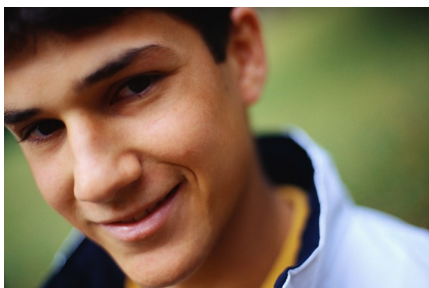
With these problems in mind, the shelter is partnering with the campus United Way at IUS to provide mentors to our girls while they are with us. Though still in the initial stages the program will pair college girls with our residents and will involve group activities that focus on raising esteem through making good choices and understanding options.

Nikki Rhodes, the IUS United Way President hopes to have the program, named F.L.I.G.H.T. (Female Leaders Inspiring Girls to Higher Thinking), in place before summer break starts.

The co-eds will be working with materials that have been reviewed by our clinical social worker, Barry Winstead. In addition to group activities, the girls will partner one-on-one with their older counterparts. The hope is that this program will allow our girls to leave here with a better self image and more options for their future.



And Boys



A large number of our boys come from families where gender respect is a foreign concept. Viewing girls as equals and not just a potential sex partner or someone to push around is not an idea that they are comfortable with.

Our boys aren't the only ones with this skewed view,

Statistics cited in the article are available at www.nnvawi.org

it's a national problem and we have help in addressing this issue. MensWork is a national program working to eliminate violence against women by making men accountable for monitoring their own behavior and that of their male acquaintances. Rus Funk, the Executive Director in Louisville will be training four volunteers to work with our boys. These men are young enough to relate to the boys, but old enough to realize the importance of respecting women in every stage of life.

This 4 part program will

address sexual harassment, domestic and sexual violence, gender respect and what it means to be a man in the 21st century.

29% of boys bully in middle and high school

48% give approval to this behavior by being silent bystanders

29% of teenage males pressure sexual compliance from their partners

34% use verbal or electronic communications threats to control non-sexual behavior of partners

**FLOYD COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU**

3005 Grantline Rd.
New Albany IN 47150

Phone 812-948-5481
FAX 812-948-5427
rsasse@floydcounty.in.gov



Our thanks to the Gannett Foundation and the Courier Journal for their support. They are underwriting the publishing and mailing expenses of this newsletter for 2010-2011

Summer Fun

Evan Gaubatz, with Personal Academic Support Services, is preparing for the summer. She has great ideas about keeping the kids busy while keeping their minds sharp and curiosity keen.

We plan to take the kids to Kings Island at the end of the summer as a reward trip for all of their hard work.

You can be a part of this summer project without leaving your house. Your

check can sponsor the following:

\$10 = Falls of the Ohio trip and lunch for 1 kid

\$15 = Museum trip and lunch for 1 kid

\$30 = Ice cream treats for everyone

\$50 = a full day at Kings Island for 1 kid

Mail your tax deductible sponsor check to:

FCYSB

**3005 Grant Line Rd.
New Albany IN 47150**

Please mark the memo line **"Summer Fun"**

